



Sermon Series: Cycle Breakers part2

Sermon Title: The Power of God's Grace

Date: 1/7/2024

Make this phrase your own and fill in your blank. Proclaim this over yourself: “____ runs in my family but not in me. By *God's Grace*, the cycle is broken.”

This is such a powerful statement because it requires:

1. Discover your past

Joshua 2:1

One of the greatest tools for not repeating the sins of those who came before us is understanding the root cause of their sin. 40 years before this event (**Numbers 13:1-2**). Fear of man overruled their faith in God's promise. **Numbers 13:31-32**

God told Moses and Aaron in **Numbers 14:12**, “I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they.” Moses interceded, and God told them that anyone 20 years or older who complained against him wouldn't enter the promised land. The generation after them will have the opportunity to walk into the land. **Numbers 13: 26-35**

Now, every decision the spies make was informed by the reminder that the fear of man is foolish - God is in control. Knowing the mistakes of the generation before them enables them to avoid the same mistakes.

2. Give your best where you are now

Joshua 2:1-7

Rahab was a prostitute in a godless nation, yet God revealed himself to her through the testimony of his victories. **Joshua 2:8-11**

Rahab's efforts of glorifying God to the best of her understanding is what *began* to build her faith. **Joshua 2:12-14**

Are you willing to put yourself on the line to worship the one true God? He isn't asking for perfection; he's asking for your best where you are, which is to depend on him more than anything else.

3. Trust God with your future

Joshua 2:15-21

When Rahab committed to letting the spies go, she was inviting an army to come into her city and rule over it. Everything she was familiar with would no longer be there. God opened her eyes to the brokenness of her world and the power of the LORD, and she trusted him.

And she tied the scarlet cord in the window. Joshua 2:21b

There's so much symbolism in this verse. It points back to the Passover and directly to Jesus, as he is our scarlet cord.

When you, like Rahab, hang this scarlet cord in your life, symbolizing "I trust Jesus." You welcome his promises of Hope, Peace, Joy, and redemption. You welcome forgiveness as you've never known. You receive a life change you've been looking for but didn't know where to find.

Whether you are an unbeliever or a believer, we all have cycles God calls us to break. Let's break them! Let's not fear, man. Let's not identify with our sins. We are more than conquerors in Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What counsel would you give someone to begin breaking a destructive cycle of sin?**
- **What sins did you see your parents or grandparents struggle with that you now find yourself resisting? What perceived need is it fulfilling?**
- **Have you ever broken a destructive cycle in your life? Explain**
- **Do you have a sin that is so difficult to overcome that it feels like a part of who you are?**